

San Diego DX Club Bulletin



February 2013



No more 48
hour contests
for me

The San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) is among the best known and most highly respected DX clubs in the United States. Since it's founding in 1946, SDDXC members have been on both sides of the pile-ups with DXpeditions and a fair share have achieved "Top of the Honor Roll" status. If you're interested in chasing DX, contesting, exchanging stories or just rubbing elbows with fellow "Big Guns" or "Little Pistols", you'll feel right at home at one of our club meetings. Join us at our next meeting. Visitors are particularly welcome!

For real time DX spotting and lively conversation on a variety of subjects, join us on 144.415 MHz.

PROGRAM: "LET YOUR COMPUTER DO THE WORK" BY JOHN, NA6L

MEETING NOTICE:

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER

AERO DRIVE & MURPHY CANYON RD

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2013

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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A Word from the Prez . . .

John Barcroft, K6AM



Thanks to all who came out for the January meeting. We had one of our biggest crowds ever to see Arnie, N6HC's show on Swain's Island. The place was packed even though a few of the regular North County folks were missing.

Visalia is rapidly approaching. If you haven't registered yet, go to dxconvention.org to sign up. Here you will find the procedure for reserving a seat at the Saturday night banquet. It will be by e-mail again (see web site). You can get a group together and reserve a table for everyone or take your chances and get placed with someone you haven't met yet. In any case, make your seating registration NOW so you won't get stuck way in the back.

There's been some modest action on the band even though 10 meters has been fairly dead. Look for operations from Rotuma, 5V, 5X, J52, and 9U, just to name some of the ones in the hot 100 on the needed countries list.

As I write this on Feb 11, I'm heading out the door on the way to ZF2AM for the ARRL DX CW and CQWW 160M SSB contests. Then it's on to PJ2T for ARRL DX SSB. I'll be on the lookout for club members on all bands. CU in the pileups.

73, John, K6AM

Treasurers Report

Ellen, N6UWW



Minutes of the January Meeting

A record crowd (47) turned out for the January 23rd meeting at the Sizzler. The Rookie of the Year Award was given to John Vissant, NA6L, who worked 254 countries in the past calendar year. Congratulations! John thanked the Club as well as the friendly & supportive competition. Also thanked were AF6JC & AG6CV who, through their help erecting John's antennae, were instrumental in John's success. Honorable mentions for Rookie of the Year were: AI6O, WB6BFG, AD6ZJ and N6MWF.

Top Ten 10 meters ladder was read. Top Ten 40 meters ladder was read.

No progress has been made on the proposed remodel of the meeting room.

Dues are due and Wild Bill collected in the absence of the Treasurer (\$20 single - \$30 family).

Round Table discussion ensued. Online registration for Visalia April 19-21) is now open. Note the new location is the Visalia Convention Center. Early registration ends April 10th. Early banquet seating is also available. All the information is available at www.dxconvention.com.

Treasurer's Report

2013 Dues are now being accepted. Individual dues are \$20 and family dues are \$30. Please send checks payable to SAN DIEGO DX CLUB c/o Ellen Utschig 2104 Poplar Rd Oceanside, CA 92058-2332 Note: There is no PayPal option this year. Statement Balance 1/31/2013 \$6307.78

Ellen, N6UWW

Editor's Ramblings

Ron, N0RR

As promised last month, I got the club email list and invited everyone to contribute content to this month's bulletin. I received abundant material, so much that I have enough for this month and March. I hope this trend continues otherwise the April issue may be lean. I'll continue to beg for input and please send it to me no later than the Friday before the meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Remember this is your bulletin and I am relying on members to provide content. My job is to assemble and present that content in a logical and coherent manner.

Because my favorite band, 10m, has been quite poor these days due to low solar flux, I've been concentrating on 80m, trying to collect new ones. I'm thinking that one of these days I am going to visit Harry, W6YOO, with about 250 cards and apply for my 80m DXCC.

Working rare ones on 80 requires a lot of dedication and perseverance. It's been decades since I tuned this band exclusively, but I can assure you that there is rare, but workable DX, both short and long path. The secret is listening every day. On consecutive days the solar flux and K-index can be identical, but one day you may barely hear the station and the next day it is 569. A real world example for me was T6LG. When the worldwide spots indicated that he was on most days around our sunset, I began listening 5 days a week beginning in mid-January. Most days he was very weak, but as time progressed and approached gray line, he got progressively stronger. Finally on 3 Feb he was 569 on my meter and came back to my 3rd call. Although I've been DXing for over 50 years. I'll never forget this QSO. That's excitement!

Ron, N0RR

February program update from Dan, N6ERD/1

Dan decided to work DX from the east coast (Connecticut) this month. Little did he know that he would be shoveling snow and repairing antennas from the worst snow storm since 1978. Anyway, while warming up in the house, he was able to provide this input via email. (Ed.)

This month's presentation is entitled "Let Your Computer Do the Work" presented by John, NA6L. He will bring us up to date on DX aids, by providing a quick overview of Clusters, LoTW, HRD, Clublog, Hamspots, (DXwatch) and more. This is an overview of how to use these programs showing what is available and where to find out more information.

For a short biography of our 'Rookie of the Year' and a summary of John's accomplishments, see page 5.

THE SDDXC TOP 10 By John, K6AM

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 10m

2/13	2/12	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	340	+1
2.	2.	N6ND	40	280	287	332	+1
3.	5.	N0RR	40	319	329	329	+13
4.	3.	K6AM	40	318	325	326	+1
5.	4.	N6CW	40	?	297	322	+2
6.	6.	W6YI	40	283	289	310	+10
7.	7.	W6YOO	40	289	295	295	+3
8.	-	K0XB	40	258	263	275	NEW
9.	8	K6ZH	39	246	252	274	+14
10.	10.	WN6K	40	216	222	265	+10

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 40m

2/13	2/12	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	336	347	347	-
2.	2.	N6ND	40	303	311	343	-
3.	3.	N0RR	40	329	341	341	+1
4.	4.	K6AM	40	327	333	336	+3
5.	8.	K6XT	40	319	331	331	+13
6.	5.	N7CW	40	315	315	329	-
7.	6.	N6CW	40	?	302	329	+6
8.	7.	W6YI	40	306	310	325	+4
9.	9.	K6ZH	39	267	272	291	-
10.	10.	WN6K	39	204	209	255	NEW

Ten meters continues to be quite productive yielding a bunch of new ones for almost everyone. Some very nice jumps in score come from our most active players. Our February champ, Jim, W6YA holds on handily to the top spot on both 10 and 40. He should be able to keep both for several more years. Don't be left behind, get your latest scores to me as soon as you have those new ones.

Congrats this month go out to our 2012 Rookie of the Year, John Vissat, NA6L. John worked an astounding 254 new entities in his first year of serious DX'ing and is already up to 283 after only 3 weeks into 2013. He did it with only a tribander and a dipole at 43 ft. Good work John! Honorable mentions also go to AI6O (21), WB6BFG (15), AD6ZJ (12) and W6NWF (10), all with nice jumps in their totals.

As most of you know, we lost one of our senior members last month. Ralph Held, K6QS goes into the record books with a total of 338 worked and 335 confirmed as of his last report back in 2002. I'm certain he really had many more, but we lost touch in those last years.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 80, 20, 15 meters, and then the WARC bands. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

Club Happenings in Pictures

A big thank you to the club for selecting me as the 2012 Rookie of The Year (Wild Bill is a hard act to follow) – I'm both flattered and honored to be acknowledged by my fellow DXers (I'd mention the award to my non-HAM friends but all I'd get back is a blank stare) . The club, while competitive (the ladder etc), to me it is actually very collaborative with everyone helping each other succeed with DXing and contesting ---- I am very thankful for the assistance given to me by so many helping keys, mics and hands.

Reaching my DXCC total (now 285 entities and getting more difficult) has given me a huge appreciation for all of you that have worked so many countries the hard way – pre-cluster, pre-email coordination, pre-remote stations, pre-monster DXpeditions, pre LoTW, pre-computer modeled propagation reports etc. Many of you reached your goals while raising families, working a full schedule and using marginal stations at times --- thousands of or hours rolling around the bands, listening, listening and more listening.

In a way the stars lined up to allow me to work 254 entities during 2012 -- some friends helped erect a small used tower to support a well seasoned little A3S tribander plus an inverted V multi-band



dipole for 12/17/30/40/80. The SFI cooperated and I am fortunate to work from my home office/station, it also helps that my wife is a Ham (KJ6JAL mostly on her HT).

Thanks to my mentor, Glenn, K6NA.

Regards, John NA6L





How's DX?

This page consists of historical data so members can share information or brag about their accomplishments. For real time info, monitor the club 2m spotting frequency, 144.415 MHz. For future DX info subscribe to the ARRL weekly DX bulletin and/or W3UR's, (Bernie) newsletter.

Station	Band	Date	Time	By	Station	Band	Date	Time	By
3D2NB	80 CW	3-Feb	1322	NORR	G3XTT	160	27-Jan	0712	W6YI
4K6FO	40 CW	1-Feb	1510	W6YA	J28UC	20 SSB	6-Feb	1523	W6YA
5T0JL	30 CW	28-Jan	0035	W6YA	J5NAR	80 CW	14-Feb	0130	NORR
5X8C	30 CW	8-Feb	1539	W6YA	J5UAB	10	21-Feb	1606	W6YI
5X8C	30 CW	10-Feb	0240	W6YI	JX9JKA	17	7-Feb	1737	w6YI
5Z4/DF5ZP	17	22-Feb	2040	W6YI	RI1ANF	160	31-Jan	0336	W6YI
9U4U	20	19-Feb	0111	W6YI	SM2EKM	80 CW	4-Feb	1433	W6YA
9U4U	17	19-Feb	0116	W6YI	ST2UOK	20 SSB	6-Feb	1520	W6YA
9U4U	80 CW	19-Feb	0436	NORR	T6LG	40 CW	29-Jan	1437	W6YA
9U4U	30	19-Feb	1427	W6YI	T6LG	40	29-Jan	1456	W6YI
9U4U	80	20-Feb	0130	W6YI	T6LG	80 CW	3-Feb	0207	NORR
9U4U	12	22-Feb	1923	W6YI	TZ6BB	20	31-Jan	0115	W6YI
9U4U	12	22-Feb	1928	W6YI	UK8OM	40	20-Feb	0223	W6YI
A45XR	30	30-Jan	1526	W6YI	V63ZM	80 CW	15-Feb	1333	NORR
A61BK	40 CW	25-Jan	1441	W6YA	XT2TT	12	22-Feb	1527	W6YI
A65BP	40 SSB	1-Feb	1524	W6YA	YL2KO	80 CW	15-Feb	1453	NORR
A92GE	40	29-Jan	1512	W6YI	Z81D	15	7-Feb	1518	W6YI
DR4A	160	27-Jan	0709	W6YI	Z81D	15 SSB	7-Feb	1531	W6YA
E70T	80 CW	16-Feb	0229	NORR	ZK3T	80 CW	13-Feb	1311	NORR
EY8MM	80 CW	5-Feb	0209	NORR	ZS6EZ	80 CW	22-Feb	0413	NORR

US International Postal Rates—In case you did not notice, US International Airmail rates to most of the world increased to \$1.10 in late January. The good news is that the new stamps are “Forever” stamps, so they will remain valid after the next rate hike. The bad news, in my opinion, is that the unique, round design (a first for the USA?) may be subject to theft by stamp collectors in post offices around the world until the novelty wears off.

Propagation Tip—Sunrise, sunset and gray line propagation are your friends. Unlike solar flux, A-index, K-index, flares, etc. these times are consistent and predictable with precision. The daily rate of change for these events is a maximum at the vernal (spring) and autumnal (fall) equinox. Check your sunrise/sunset calculator frequently this time of year.

QSLs Received Recently—

Station	Via
4O4A	Direct
7P8D	ZS2DL
D3AA	UA1QV
EY8MM	K1BV
JD1BMH	JG7PSJ
SU9VB	UA4WHX
TF3SG	Direct



No man-made RFI here-

Contest Corral

SDDXC RESULTS 2012 ARRL DX CW CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	
SOHP	ZF2AM (K6AM)	6,805,134	6,493	353	#1 World
SOHP	W6YI (N6MJ)	4,447,926	3,389	441	#1 W6/W7, #1 SW Div
SOHP	K6NA	1,961,982	1,790	367	#2 SW Div
MS HP	NX6T	1,813,896	1,708	366	#1 W6, #1 SW Div
SO LP	WN6K	567,936	1,019	192	#2 SW Div
SO LP	N5ZO	28,728	152	63	
SA HP	K5OA	524,250	744	250	
SA HP	N6NC	12,240	81	51	

W6YI 2013 ARRL CW DX Contest results

<u>Band</u>	<u>QSOs</u>	<u>DXCC</u>
160	44	18
80	244	53
40	520	87
20	520	87
15	1033	87
10	344	68

3,897,504 n6mj Op

Hints and Kinks

Add 2 Coax ANT ports to Drake MN-2700 ANT Tuner:

I was going to buy an expensive automated ANT switch (~\$500 w/tax), but saw that several hams I knew were critical of the cost and features. Then it occurred to me there were two unused ANT switch positions on the MN-2700 ANT tuner, so I converted them to SO-239 ports instead. So now I have five independent, manually selectable coax ANT terminals on the MN-2700-- just what I needed.

I never have used the direct wire inputs on any ANT tuner, just coax in the shack. By experimenting, I have found that long wires or twinlead into the shack always cause RFI on equipment within the shack, so I always put a small tuner or tuning circuit outside the shack and run coax from it to the ANT switch at the shack. This leaves me with two unused ANT switch positions for twinlead or long wires on the MN-2700 tuner, which could be converted to two additional SO-239 coax ANT terminals.

I modified my MN-2700 tuner to add two more switch-selectable coax ANT ports (for a total of 5) by removing the little fiberglass plate on the back containing the three screw terminals for wires, then fashioning a small aluminum plate to fill the hole, and drilling the plate to hold two more SO-239 coax receptacles.

If you look at the ANT selector switch inside the MN-2700, the last two selections (clockwise on the ANT switch) are for long and balanced wire inputs, but they employ just straight wires to the switch. If you open up the tuner and unsolder the two wires there from the screw terminals on the f/g plate (keep the plate to return the tuner to original configuration if you want to sell it later), those wires can be extended to the center conductor pins of the two new SO-239 coax receptacles. Then you have five selectable coax ANT inputs to the tuner, starting from left to right on the back: ANT #1 (Dummy Load), #2 (ANT 1), # 3 (ANT 2), # 4 new SO-239, # 5 2d new SO-239.

Only trick is to place the holes for the new SO-239s as high as you can on the replacement aluminum plate, as the lower SO-239 is pretty close to a lug of the big coil inside the tuner, so the higher up on the plate the lower SO-239 is located, the better.

73, Larry N6NC

JIM PRICE, K6ZH – 50 YEARS OF HAM RADIO

The envelope arrived from the FCC to my parents' home in Santa Maria, CA in early February, 1963. I eagerly opened it to see my novice license: WN6DPV. Oh my! I was more than ready – thanks to my Elmer, Jim Wiley, WA6DRO – now KL7CC. I had a shiny new Heathkit HX-11 (like a DX-20) and a gently used RME 6900 receiver (excellent rig!) I had 3 crystals for the 40 meter novice band e.g. 7173 kHz), and 3 more (e.g. 7040 kHz) that would triple up to the 15 meter novice band. With the installation of a 40 meter dipole (just above the roofline of the house and fed with lamp cord) I was on the air! My first QSO was with my Elmer on Feb. 13th (actually Feb. 14th GMT but I didn't start logging in GMT for quite a while!). Then came the search on 40 and 15 to find QSOs all over the US – and I made a bunch of them.

I've been at it for 50 years and have enjoyed it all. I became WB6DPV in late 1963, and I got my K6ZH call in 1977. Among the highlights:

Traffic handling: I actively participated in the Mission Trail Net on 75 meter phone (AM originally) for over 30 years – as net control, various offices, and historian. I was also a “traffic man” on CW: SCN and RN6 for those who were ever involved in the National Traffic System.

Contesting: I still get on for contests – have won quite a few awards over the years including 2 plaques for Sweepstakes. I got my first SS award for SS phone in 1964 – making 110 QSOs with 50 watts of AM. At that time Santa Barbara section was rare! I, Bud N7CW, Dan N6ERD, and several others participate in CQP every year from Imperial County – always enjoy that. The contests I enjoy the most are SS, CQP, and Sprint. And then, of course there's Field Day. One of my most memorable: San Clemente Island in 1972!

Awards: Got my first Worked All States in 1964 (VT was the last one). Since then I've gotten WAS for QRP, 160 meters, and satellite (using the Russian RS birds). Got my DXCC in 1976 (kind of a late bloomer!), and have chipped away at it until today I only need 1 entity to have worked 'em all: Heard Island. Supposedly it'll be on in 2014, so I need to make sure I get that in the log! I'm on DXCC Honor Roll Mixed, CW, and SSB, plus DXCC on 8 bands, and most recently RTTY.

DXpeditions: The only 'true DXpedition' I've been on was to T31A last year. However I've operated from several other QTHs including KX6, KH6, PJ2, ZF, and TK. I would like to go on at least a couple more 'real' DXpeditions.

The People: Except for family, my longest-term friends are mostly hams. I've known a couple of guys on Mission Trail Net for most of my 50 years on the air. And I've known some of you in the San Diego DX Club for over 30 years. My wife Joan (N6KIM) and I have met many hams over the years – including in foreign countries where we visit. We have also hosted quite a few hams from overseas. I think we hams are the tightest knit and friendliest bunch of people on the planet – with that common thread of fascination in radio. When I go to my grave, I will have felt enriched to have been a ham and to have known so many others.

Tnx, and 73 – Jim, K6ZH

An Open Letter to SDDXC Members from Rob Kitson, KI6SBL

I wanted to share something with SDDXC. I am going to run for SANDARC Chairman this April. I am telling you this so you know why I am running and what I hope to accomplish. I am running because I want to grow Amateur Radio in San Diego. I did it in Escondido, now I want to do it for the entire county.

My actual goals are:

- 1) Publicize the up-coming SANDARC Convention through the many marketing avenues I have cultivated over the years.
- 2) Create a countywide Elmer's List where we can list what everyone's specialty is so that a new HAM can find an Elmer on areas where they need assistance.
- 3) Design a facebook account where all our activities can be shared across the county.
- 4) Establish a Delegate Team that will visit clubs and offer advice and assistance on help each club may need - like - Advertising, Membership, Club Presentations, Club Websites, and much more.
- 5) Write a presentation we can give to local high schools promoting the fun and benefits of becoming a HAM. Prepare a quarterly newsletter - maybe call it the SANDARC Sentinal.

These items are just a brief outline of what I want to do as SANDARC Chairman. You're probably asking yourself why I am sharing this with you in the SDDXC newsletter. I am because I hope to earn your support to ask your delegates to vote for me. I also need your advice and goals in the HAM universe.

It is my hope and utmost goal to present a positive atmosphere at SANDARC meetings so that each club can grow from SANDARC's success.

Please let me know your thoughts. KI6SBL@earsclub.org - or - 760.715.2876)

Thank you for this opportunity to express myself.

Rob

=====

Robert J. Kitson, KI6SBL
760.715.2876

Items for Sale

FOR SALE: Alpha 87A. An old one but a good one. Used very little as I have been a QRPer for the past half-dozen years. Many hams, including me, consider the 87A to be the best amplifier ever made. I've decided to simplify my station. This amp has been treated well. I never ran it into the red. Pick up preferred. You may come try it out in Hollywood. Includes original manual, shipping boxes, spare fuses, etc. \$3,850.00 firm. Dave Bell, W6AQ@aol.com.

FOR SALE: Rohn 25G tower sections. The galvanized finish has faded to gray, but otherwise they are like new. No gouges, scrapes, rust, bent legs or bent cross bracing. I also have many GB-25 Guy brackets and TB-25 Torque bars. 10-foot 25G section \$75 each. N0RR@cox.net

FOR SALE: Phillystran pre-fabricated Kevlar guys with potting heads installed on each end. These are the original HPTG 6700 cable equivalent to 1/4 inch EHS steel. They are dielectric and therefore, non-resonant at all frequencies. They were in-service in Colorado for 5 years. Since then they have been stored indoors. Various lengths available between 70 and 110 feet. I have sold many sets to Rob Sherwood, NC0B, for his super station. You may contact him as reference regarding the quality of this product. I also have many of the recommended vibration dampers. \$225 for a set of three plus shipping, if applicable. N0RR@cox.net.



None of the comforts of home,
but a great support team

Living life on the edge, literally!
Are there earthquakes here?

